

REMARKS

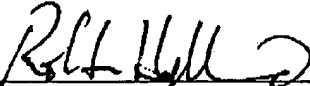

Claims 1 - 7 are pending in the application. Claims 8 - 20 have been withdrawn. Claims 1 - 7 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,158,590 issued to Fujikawa and by U.S. Patent No. 2,801,002 issued to Volckening.

The Examiner's rejections are not understood. The Examiner states "that while an opening to a pocket of a bag/envelope etc is in the open or unsealed position, the opening is operable to pass air." Both Fujikawa and Volckening disclose sealed bags that do not have any opening when packaged into a partition. Claim 1 recites that the opening aids "retention of a protective bag in a partition during extraction of a component from the partition." Neither Fujikawa nor Volckening can anticipate this limitation since the bags of both Fujikawa and Volckening are sealed for shipment and would remain sealed when removed from any partition. Further, if the Examiner intends to stand on a rejection to Claim 1 based upon the use of any opening in the bag, the Examiner must still find distinct openings to reject Claim 3, which recites an opening in the upper and lower portions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and Claims 2-7 that depend from Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS via the USPTO Central Facsimile on May 31, 2005. | |
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| Attorney for Applicant(s) | Date of Signature |

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Holland
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 40,020